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Proposal for an
**International Russian-German Institute for Researches on Civil
Society in Kaliningrad**
(IRGIRCISK)

The future of the population on earth seems to depend not so much on the development of state institutions but on the way civil societies develop. In view of the universal electronic communication the dynamic in the minds of the citizens is rather unpredictable. Nevertheless, our societies decide whether the values of solidarity, tolerance, respect to minorities, openness and civil courage can co-exist with patriotism, religious faith, and the concepts of tribe, clan, regional group and family structure. As wind and water have no national boundaries, modern interdependence of communication is general.

The Arab Spring, fundamentalist religious fighters, terrorists, defenders of archaic forms of groups and old fashioned nationalism actually show how fragile and dangerous human development can be.

There is an important tradition in inquiries on civil society in Kaliningrad (Königsberg) namely connected to the great thinkers Immanuel Kant and Hannah Arendt. The articles "Civil society", "Kant on Eternal Peace" and "Arendt Hannah" in the "Global Studies Encyclopedia", edited by I. I. Mazour, A. N. Chumakov and W. C. Gay in Moscow in 2003, demonstrate

the enormous influence of Kant and Arendt on modern civil thinking. That's why I propose the founding of an International Russian-German Institute for Researches on Civil Society in Kaliningrad (IRGIRCISK). Certainly there is a great Russian thinker too who can give the mental patronage for the essential tradition of civil political theory rooted in Kaliningrad.

As we don't know very much about the dynamic of our societies in respect of nostalgia, fear and hope of a better life, in IRGIRCISK should collaborate philosophers, sociologists, psychologists and linguists in the researches which are focused on the power of thought, social role understanding, inner representations and language patterns of our human world population. As well as publications on civil society can promote a positive development of human affairs, a better and realistic conception of the self-understanding of our societies can help national and international politicians in steering school systems, social assistance, infrastructure, environments conditions and supranational relations.

Founding IRGIRCISK will not be easy. Russian science is centered in Moscow, German scientist are orientated to North America. IRGIRCISK only can be successful, if the financial resources are excellent in an international measure. IRGIRCISK must be attractive for excellent Russian, German and international scientists. Probably the Baltic Sea Cooperation Council is interested in the development of such an institute referring to the ancient importance of the metropolis of Königsberg in this region. In the same way business could be engaged. But overall Russian and German science policy should be challenged by the vision of an international Russian-German think tank combining tradition and future.

This initiative is supported by the speaker of university affairs of the CDU-group in the parliament of Schleswig-Holstein, a partner region of the Oblast Kaliningrad, M. Daniel Günther. He'll introduce this initiative into the political discussion of Germany.